

POLICY / COMMUNITY AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, January 6, 2014

Oliver Administration Building

Present

Subcommittee: William O'Dell, Chair, Diana Campbell and Lynn Wainwright

School Committee, Administration & Guests: Mario Andrade, Asst. Superintendent; Russ Noble, Morgan Chaves, Jordan Perroni, Ross Hogan and Christine O'Connor, Editor Bristol Phoenix

Meeting called to order by Bill O. at 6:34 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Diana C. motioned to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2013 meeting; Lynn W. seconded.

DISCUSSION: Diana C. requested that a sentence be removed from page six of the minutes. The sentence read, "Diana C. suggested possibly adding to School Committee Goals to monitor whether this policy is being followed."

MOTION: Diana C. made a motion to amend the minutes as described; seconded by Lynn W.

The minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

Proposed Changes to Handbook – Prom Preparation

Morgan Chaves, Junior Class President, came before the Policy/Community Affairs Subcommittee with a proposal to make changes to the Early Dismissal Policy contained within the Student Handbook. The proposed changes concern the day of the prom. Morgan C. stated that the prom begins at 6 p.m. The location of the prom is typically a half hour away from Bristol and Warren. As a result, it can be difficult for students to adequately prepare for the prom in a timely manner. In order to accommodate student's preparation for the prom, Morgan C. is proposing that a student, with a parent's permission, be allowed to leave school an hour prior to regular dismissal. Morgan C. said there would be a stipulation that a student must have either S3s or S4s in social expectation grades to be considered for early dismissal.

Morgan C. stated she went before the School Improvement Team with the proposed changes to the Early Dismissal Policy of the Student Handbook. The School Improvement Team is in favor of the requested changes. Mario A. stated that High School Administration is not in favor of prom day early dismissal.

The proposed changes to the Student Handbook - prom preparation discussion will be carried over to the next meeting. A request was made of Morgan C. to assemble a proposal package to include an

implementation plan, rules, and Faculty, SIT and Administration buy-in which will be presented at the next meeting.

Proposed Oversight Policy

Bill O. stated the Oversight Policy, as presented, is a solution to a problem. He does not understand what the problem is. In order to identify possible problem areas, Mario A. was asked to facilitate a brainstorming session. The following problem areas were discussed:

Academic Eligibility

Communication – School Committee unaware of changes

Relationship Problem between School Committee and High School

The Subcommittee decided that the Oversight Policy does not address the real policies and issues. The Subcommittee suggested that the Superintendent and School Committee Chair meet to develop an action plan for the issues as the Subcommittee sees them, but not limited to Academic Eligibility, Communication, and Relationship/Trust between Administration and the School Committee.

Student Code of Discipline

Mario A. explained the implementation of the Student Computer and Internet Use Policy.

The Subcommittee would like the current Code of Discipline Policy to

be amended to include a cross reference for “Student Computer and Internet Use Policy”.

Subcommittees of the School Committee (BCE-R)

Changes to the Policy/Community Affairs Subcommittee and Wellness Subcommittee portions of the Subcommittees of the School Committee Policy were discussed.

MOTION: Diana C. made a motion to submit for a first reading to the full School Committee changes to the Subcommittees of the School Committee Policy; seconded by Lynn W. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy Review List

Updates to the Policy Review List were discussed.

Future Agenda Items

- Proposed Changes to the Student Handbook – Prom Preparation**
- Policy Review List**

Next meeting will be held on February 3, 2014

Adjournment

MOTION: At 8:04 pm Diana C. motioned to adjourn; Lynn W. seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

/kd